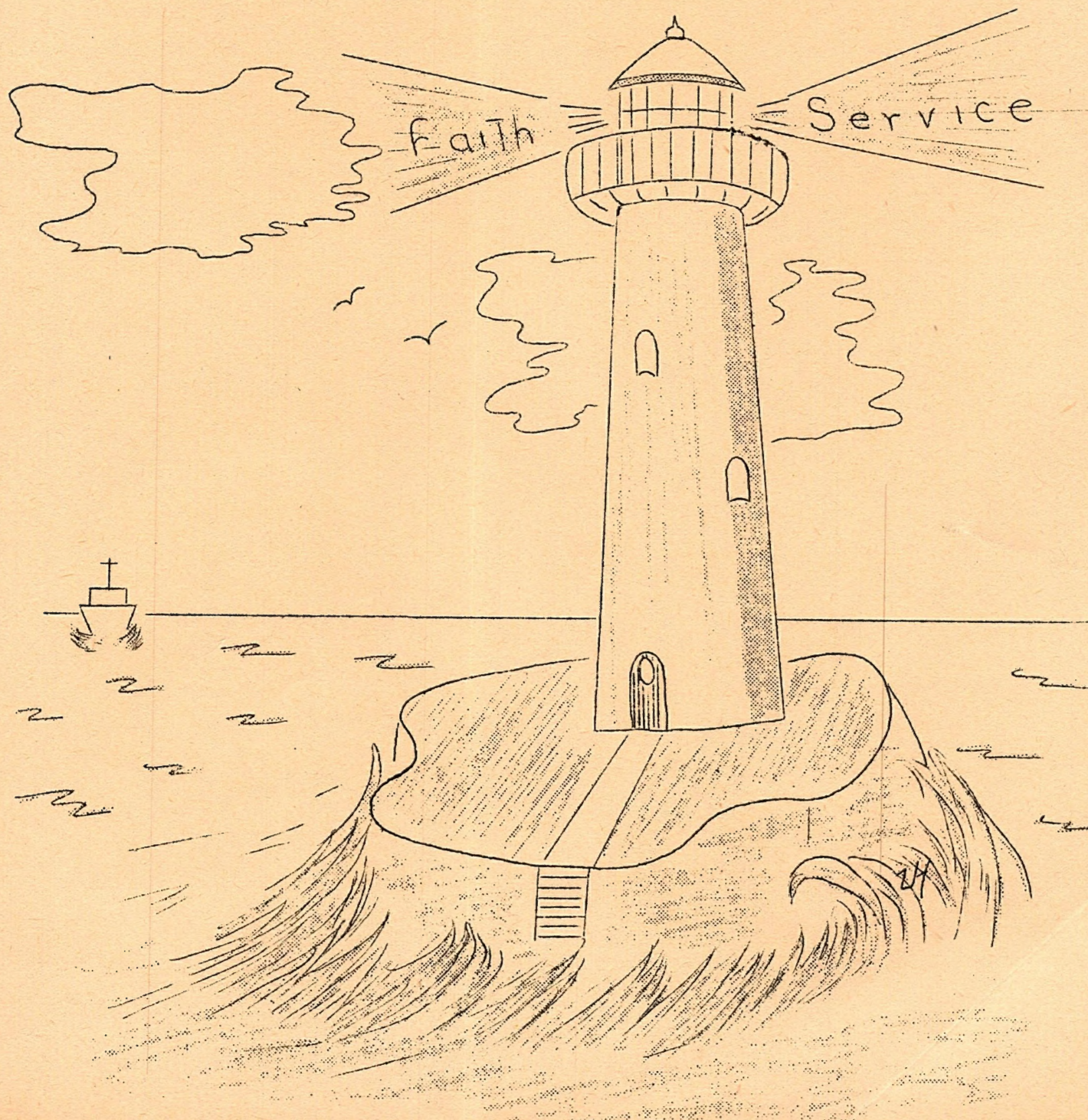
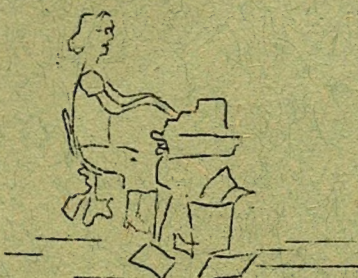


The Lost Word



EDITORIAL STAFF



Louise Brenner
Dick Newlun
Verna Kuitonen
Maureen Loop
Arth Lahti
Ann Schairer

G.S.O. CONFERENCE - 1955

The 3rd Annual Northwest G.S.O. (Girls Service Organization) Conference is being held here in Astoria this year the weekend of June 18 and 19.

There will be G.S.O. delegates from Seattle, Tacoma, and Astoria.

The theme of the conference is "Faith and Service".

The first conference was held in Seattle and last year in Tacoma. The objective of these conferences is to inspire each other to greater interest in G.S.O. and to gather new ideas for G.S.O.

Following is the Program outlined for this year's conference.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

- 9:30-10:30 Registration & Coffee Hour
10:30-11:00 Opening Session
"Junior Hostesses & Servicemen" Speaker: Chaplain S. A. Schiavone
U. S. Naval Station, Tongue Point
11:00-11:15 Monologue & Demonstration
Astoria G.S.O.
11:15- 1:15 Lunch & Tour - Tongue Point
1:15- 1:45 Second Session
Background of U.S.O. & G.S.O.
Speaker: Mrs. S. Mason Ehrman
Vice-Chairman, Oregon U.S.O. Comm.
1:45- 3:45 Panel Discussion on Program
Planning and G.S.O. Policies
3:45- 6:00 Free Time
6:00- 8:00 Banquet at Zion Lutheran Church
8:00-11:30 Dance "Sand and The Sea"
Music by the Mariners

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

- 9:00- 9:45 Java Club at the U.S.O.
Discussion Leader: Rev. Paul McFarlin
9:45-11:15 Attend Church
11:15-12:45 Free Time
12:45- 1:45 Buffet Lunch
1:45- 2:30 Closing Session
Evaluation Discussion
Leader: Sally MacDonald
Seattle G.S.O.
2:30- 3:00 Closing Devotions
Rev. O. Whitman
3:00 Homeward Bound!

DANCES



The past month or two have brought a variety of dances with them including the weekly Thursday night dances and one special dance in particular. This dance, held on May 7, honored the graduating seniors of the community along with the new servicemen at Tongue Point.

The decorations were due to the efforts of Ann Schairer who transformed the hall into a spring fantasy. Utilizing cutouts of various flowers, the walls were gaily decorated to conform with the newly arriving blossoms of the season.

The Mariners provided the very danceable music for the occasion and Miss Ellen Kauttu, one of the senior girls, played several selections on the accordion for intermission entertainment.

Refreshments were served by the senior hostesses. It was truly a fine dance and I hope that we will be seeing much more of our guests in the future.

By Louise Brenner

WANT TO LEARN TO DANCE??

If you are tired of being on the sidelines at the dances, here's your chance to be hep on the popular steps.

Mr. Bill Nolan, a local dance instructor, is willing to conduct dance classes at the U.S.O. for \$5.00 a course of 10 lessons. If you are interested please leave your name at the desk at the U.S.O.

He would like to have a class of 12, and he guarantees you will learn to dance. They will be held an hour prior the Thursday night dances, that being 7 p.m.



BUFFET SUPPERS

The buffet supper held on April 17, was held in the social hall of the U.S.O. with the Business and Professional Women's Organizations serving. Each serviceman was asked his name and his home town after which Mrs. Antonich accompanied the group at the piano in a community sing-a-long.

Much fun was had by all and we wish to express our appreciation to those who assisted by saying "thanks".

The Supper May first was served by the Zonta Club. A sing-a-long with Mrs. Antonich was the highlight of the evening.

The buffet supper May 15th was served by the members of the Trinity Lutheran Church to a large crowd of fellows. They really enjoyed the wonderful home cooked food. The Rev. Roy Ryden asked the blessing. Mrs. Antonich accompanied the Sing-A-Long.

On the 22nd of May, the Ameranth Club served to a crowd of appreciative and hungry sailors. The evening was declared a success and thanks is sincerely bestowed upon those who served.

The last buffet supper until Fall on May 29 was provided by local fishermen. The delicious ling cod could not have been served fast enough by the senior hostesses. Mrs. Antonich played "Deep Purple" on the piano, but everyone was too busy eating to think of singing. There was a good turn out and the boys came back for more fish and chips.

By Ruth Lahti

BOY OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

Last month we introduced to you John Swanson. John has spent much time at the U.S.O. during the month of April and in recognition we would like to present him to you once again as the Serviceman of the Month for April 1955.

The description that Ann Whiteside painted of John last month cannot be bettered by me so I shall leave it go with a big thank you to you, John, for all of the work you have contributed.

By Louise Brenner



GIRL OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

Girl of the Month for April is dark haired, blue eyed Louise Brenner, who measures a neat five foot five from tip to toe. Louise, who

works at St. Mary's Hospital as a medical records librarian, was born 22 years ago in Wenatchee, Washington and comes from a sizeable family of 8 children. She has been here in Astoria for 14 months.

This very mild-tempered young lady spent four years at Seattle University so you see she has brains as well as beauty. "Lou" calls Seattle her hometown.

This gal's favorite pastime is skiing and stocks really rate with her. While at the U.S.O. she'd rather eat than do anything else and she may burst out, at any time with the saying "my heavens!" In the heart throb department Marlon Brando rates top billing of the males, while Grace Kelly comes first on her list of female stars. As for music---well, Lou will take the classics any day!

Lou considers all the fellows at the U.S.O. her boy friends, but her very special flame she confided is Dvy Crockett.

By Maureen Loop

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WALRUS LINES BY WALLY

As this article is the last of mine for the "The Last Word" I don't know for sure the proper way of saying so long to the best, and I mean the very best of friends, shipmates that I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with here at the U.S.O. I'm going to miss the old gang, the picnics, the dances, and the fine programs put on, and financed by the various organizations that contribute so much of their time, effort and money to the support of the U.S.O. program. I wish to thank the personnel at the U.S.O. for making my stay at Astoria a real home away from home. Also a big cheer and humble thanks to all the girls in the G.S.O. for the efforts connected with the U.S.O. programs.

And in closing I say AuRevoir, not good bye but till we meet again.

As I'm planning to go to college at Seattle next year I hope to see you all next summer.

"Wally the Walrus"
Dudley L. Hill



G I R L
O F
T H E
M O N T H
F O R
M A Y

Girl of the month for May 1955 is an ambitious girl by the name of Ruth Lahti, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lahti of Brownsmead.

Ruth is a trim 5' 8", eyes of brown, and has light brown hair close cropped to her head in the modern mode.

Ruth first opened her big brown eyes in Portland, Oregon, and when a few days old was brought to Brownsmead where she was raised. She graduated from Knappa Svensen High and attended Northwestern School of Commerce in Portland.

Having learned her lessons well, she was accepted by Attorney Harold T. Johnson as his secretary, where she is still employed.

Being Girl of the Month isn't new to Ruth as she earned this honor in October of '53, shortly after she was acquainted with the U.S.O.

Ruthie likes dancing, boatriiding, all kinds of music, the color blue, football as a fan, the movie stars Tony Curtis and Grace Kelly, fried chicken, and SUNSHINE. She is sunshine fiend. During the winter she has to supplement for the lack of it with a sun lamp.

Ruth has two ambitions. One is to have a cabin on the beach and be a beach comber, and the other, listen to this fellows, to learn to shoot pool well.

Perhaps someday Ruth will take a trip some place where the sun does shine the year around and then she can say that she has been more than 150 miles from home. I'd say never having been farther than that is some kind of a record these days.

Ruth is especially busy lately. She is chairman of all the decorating for the Conference as well as being recording secretary for all the sessions.

In appreciation for all your services, we salute you Ruth -- Girl of the Month for May.

By Verna Hutonen

BOY OF THE MONTH FOR MAY

"Uncle Dick" Newlun, Serviceman of the Month for May, needs no introduction to the majority of you, however, maybe there are a few newcomers who have not met him as yet. He was born June 26, 1934 in Aurora, Nebraska, as a black haired, blue eyed babe. In his 21 years so far he claims he has acquired gold teeth and flat feet. Now you have his description so let me tell you something about him.

Sports rank high with "Uncle Dick" and he particularly enjoys football, basketball, and track. (I understand he doesn't do badly in the 100 and 220 yard dashes.) The Navy laid claim on Dick in 1951 and since then he has been to Korea, China, Japan, Hawaii, U. S. and Astoria. He came here in February 1954. We have enjoyed having him here but I'm afraid that this pleasure will not be ours for long. He is destined to leave this fair city in just a short 2 weeks at which time he will be discharged.

Future plans will find him attending Hastings College where he will major in science and physical education.

Dick thinks Astoria is a fine place for duty and says he will miss it when he is no longer here. He will miss particularly the ski trips and the Sunday Buffet dinners which ranked highest for him. "Uncle Dick", we will miss you also. Drop a line now and then, won't you, and keep in touch with your many friends in Astoria.

By Louise Brenner

"WEDDING BELLS ARE BREAKING UP-----"

St. Mary's Catholic Church was the setting for the formal weddings of three of our former Jr. Hostesses.

"The Two Bears", Bob Holdener and Virginia Wofford were married at a 3 p.m. ceremony May 7. The reception was held at the Star of the Sea auditorium.

Mr. and Mrs. Holdener are now at home at the Franklin Apts.

Pat McKenna and Loren Steinman became Mr. and Mrs. at a nuptial mass Friday morning, May 20th.

Pat and Loren are also living at the Franklin Apts.

Norma Schalk and George Kelly were married Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. mass with a reception following at the Moose Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly went to Frazier, Michigan, where they will make their home.

All three of these weddings were beautiful and impressive and to add to them, all were filled with sunshine.

Jack Deane and Ivanelle Tremayne were joined together in marriage Thursday, June 2 in Kelso, Washington. They are now at home in Navy Heights.

Congratulations and best wishes to all you swell people.

NEWS AND VIEWS BY UNCLE DICK

Hi Ya Gang,

Well here it is time for the "Old standby" paper to be delivered again. As you all know we have had quite a few people departing from here lately. It is always hard to see a good friend leave but it is one of those things which has to happen sooner or later.

Quoting a saying a retired school teacher once said while speaking to a graduating class, "Time can change our ages, and can cause us to depart into our different modes of life but it can never change our memories." How true this proves itself at the U.S.O. here in Astoria. Most of us shall never forget some of the times we have had. Such as "Uncle" Dudley Hills' famous sayings, nor Sue Sells and his dancing to tunes such as "Snake, Rattle, and Roll". By the way "Uncle" Dud left for California a few days ago, to board an IST, and Sue moved to Portland, where her new job is located. So all of us here really hope them a lot of luck wherever they may be.

We have also had several of the old couples, that use to attend our dances, get hitched recently. They are namely Bob and Ginny, Norma and George and Pat (Slow Mule) and Loren. I think all of you who knew them will agree with me, when I say, "We sure miss you kids, but, we are happy for you and hope you the best in your marriages.

Also there are many more that I haven't named such as, "Muz", Pat Patrone, Hal and many, many more. The gang that I have mentioned just happens to be the ones that I have known since I have been stationed in Astoria. I know that each and every person who reads this article will reminize and visualize the gang they knew at the U.S.O.

I sincerely believe that some of the greatest friendships we have known were made possible through the Astoria U.S.O.'s activities. And not only is it the boys and girls who attend the U.S.O. that make up our old gangs. But it is also the terrific people on the staff such as Felix, Verna, Ferd, Fred, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. "MA" Beemer, Mrs. Antonich and all of the people connected with it.

Well since my enlistment is up in a few more days, this will be the last time I'll write an article in the "Last Word". So all I can say is thank you for the privilege and I hope I'll see all of you sometime or other in my lifetime. All of you take good care of yourselves and remember that we all can keep on having the good, clean fun as we have had at the U.S.O. activities even after we are out of the service. It is fun like that, that will keep the U.S. the best country in the world.

So Long for now,
Dick Newlun

MEET THE THOMPSONS

This month we are going to recognize two of our Senior Volunteers, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Thompson. When ever there is a job to be done that is where you will find them. Phil and Merle have been "regulars" at the U.S.O. for the past 2 years. They were first introduced to the U.S.O. by the Elks Club and liked it so well that they have participated ever since.

One of the first big things Phil and Merle took part in was the Ski Trip last year. They were so much fun that we asked them to chaperone the trip again this year.

Did you ever notice how neat the party kitchen looks? The neatness of that room can be attributed to these two people. Phil painted the woodwork and Merle keeps things clean and in order. She is the one who puts things where they belong after you or I misplace them.

Quite often you will find Phil making coffee and Merle preparing those delicious waffles, or cracking the crab for our crab feeds.

Now I'll tell you something about Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. Phil was born in Wisconsin but attended school in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Merle is a native Oregonian. She first saw light of day in Portland.

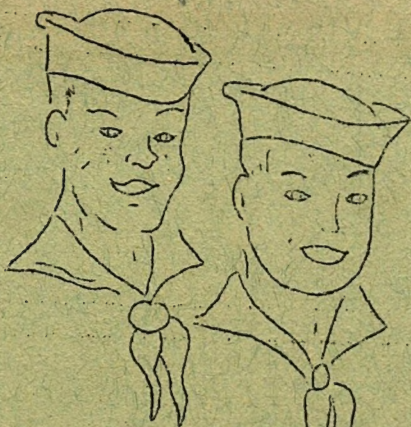
They have lived in Astoria eight years and of this, Phil has taught at Astor Grade School for 4 years. He has been a teacher and coach of basketball, baseball and football for 25 years. So if any of you fellows get in a debate about sports you know who to see. At present Phil teaches at the Boy's Camp at Tillamook Head. Besides teaching, Phil is secretary of the Elks Lodge, and Secretary of the Royal Chinook Regatta Booster. You see he is a busy man.

Along the line of favorites..naturally sports rank highest. Merle says "spectators at this age". And their main pastime is watching games. As for music, Merle enjoys Perry Como, and Phil...Dennis Morgan. Food....food! Period! Although Merle did add she doesn't like french fried snails.

For a comment on the U.S.O., Merle said they like U.S.O. work as they like young people and are used to them.

At this time we extend a hardy hand of thank you to you...Phil and Merle Thompson for all the fine volunteer service you give to the U.S.O.

By Verna Hutonen



MEET THE BOYS

I have always been rather proud of my relatives so when it came time to introduce one of the fellows to you I decided that you should all meet my cousin. This particular cousin hails from Cleveland, Ohio and, quite naturally, is a Cleveland Indian fan much to the dismay of this Yankee rooter.

He joined society on April 12, 1930. Having finished high school he entered college for a year and then joined the "Men in Blue". His tour of duty has taken him across country several times along with several trips to Korea and thereabouts. This blond, 6 foot 1 inch hospital corpsman honored Astoria with his presence in January of this year. His presence was not made known to any great extent however until the latter part of March at which time a ski trip was being planned. This man thinks skiing is great but does not think that the aftermath is quite as pleasant. This reporter, having been one of those who talked him into going, apologizes for these results.

Astoria will not be able to claim his presence for very long in the future for he will leave Astoria July 9 at which time he will also make his departure from the Navy. Thus July 9 will find him homeward bound, once again a civilian.

Most of you probably know whom I have just described but for those who haven't quite figured it out as yet, let me introduce Lewis Brenner, HM3.

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Red wavy hair, brown eyes, 20 years of age, 6 feet tall, 162 pounds. Who is it? It's Bill Danielson, electrician, FN.

Bill has been in the service for 2 years and came here to Astoria after taking his boot camp in San Diego. Coming to Oregon was probably a welcome to him as he hails from Eugene. Bill is quite sports minded and always enjoys a good basketball or football game. Basketball probably ranks a little higher in his hierarchy of values which is evidenced by the fact that he played 2 years of varsity while in high school which was preceded by a year of junior varsity play.

Bill has other likes among which is Western music, his favorite being "Little Tom". (I hope that is really the name of a piece because when it comes to Western music your reporter just doesn't have any knowledge at all even though I claim to be a "gee'tar" player.) A compliment for the G.S.O. hostesses comes in here for Bill states that he likes the women here.

In interviewing this sailor I found out only one dislike of his...Navy chore. Have courage, just a couple more years and you can enjoy home cooking once again. You will find Bill at almost every dance and for those of you whom he tells he can't dance, don't believe him. Kepp it up Bill, you're doing fine.

By Louise Brenner

ECOLA PARK PICNIC

The first picnic of the year was held Sunday, June 5th at one of the Northwest's most scenic parks..Ecola Park.

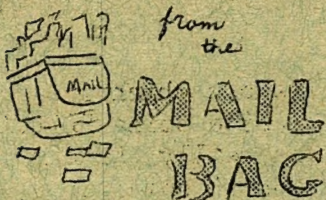
Seventeen fellows and gals signed up for the excursion and were on their way by 1:30 p.m.---first stopping at the Super Market for food.

On arriving at the park the gear and nourishments were distributed among the fun seekers and immediately they set forth down the winding trail toward the beach with Ann Schairer in the lead. Over rocks, sand, and wood to a sandy area about a mile from the parking lot they trudged. A few people were heard to moan because of the hiking over such a rough area, but by the end of the day they knew it was worthwhile for a lot of fun was had swimming in the cool Pacific, playing volleyball, eating broiled hamburgers, hotdogs, beans etc., and just chipping their teeth. (talking)

By 7 p.m. the happy group headed back with a few of the beachcombers trailing behind picking up unusual pieces of drift wood and live star fish.

For the information of you guys and gals who are new here, picnics, beach parties, or hikes are held each Sunday afternoon during the summer at points of interest in the community. The next time you feel like having a good time in the great outdoors just sign up at the desk and be on hand by 1:00 p.m.Sunday afternoon. The cost is never more than a dollar. For transportation we have to depend on you people with cars.

Be seeing you Sunday.



The U.S.O. Gang was not forgotten these past two months by former fellows who are now sailing the far seas.

D. C. Strain, MM3 surprised us with a letter written on the U.S.S. Alsnain (AKA-55) all the way at Barcelona, Spain. D. C. said his ship was soon returning to the U.S.A. and that he'd be getting out of the Navy in 8 months. Being at a seemingly interesting a place as Spain, he was still wishing he were back at Tongue Point. How about that?

"Hi Yall to Everyone" from Joe Rusling. At the time his sub the U.S.S. Tiru was in Yokosuka, Japan. Joe told us about some of his interesting experiences, such as wearing a sarong while in Samoa, and going through the tortures of being initiated from a Polliwag to a Shellback when crossing the equator. Quote from his letter on the ordeal - "I had a big T shaved in the center of my head, I was beat black and blue, dunked in ice water, painted, and kissed the Royal Baby. Really an experience but now I am an Honorable Shellback and the next time I will do the beating. The only bad after effect was to my hair." We who know Joe can just picture it (HA). This guy can really write the letters.

From the U.S.S. Philippine Sea (CVA-47) Somewhere at Sea, Blackie Blackman wrote "Hi Gang, Just a few lines from an ole U.S.O. fellow. I've really got a big debt to the staff and members of the place. I well remember all the times I've spent there and the times we used to have, spite (Get this fellows) of all the RAIN....I never thought the day would come when I'd miss the U.S.O. like I have since I've been away. Also the thought of the Mariners. I still think its a great organization and sure wish I could be back there with them." And Blackie says "sometime after the first of the year, I'll be venturing back up that way to anew some old friends, and possibly meet some new." And "If some time you are looking for something to do and there is nothing at hand, I've got an address" --- L. M. Blackman SN 319-27-55 S-1 Division U.S.S. Philippine Sea CVA-47 c/o F.P.O. San Francisco, California

"Dear Smiles! & All You Die Hards! writes "Pat" Patrone May 18 from the U.S.S. Diachenko (APO 123) at the China Sea. Pat would also appreciate getting some mail from some of the kids. We quote Pats words of wisdom which were written at the end of his letter "Smile awhile, and the world "Smiles" with you!" If he can keep smiling while on Indo China Patrol so can we. Right?

Crit Chat

Vacation time is here again and that is the time for renewing old friendships and making new ones, and that is just what Gloria Nichols and Pat Newell did. It has been a year since Gloia and Pat moved down to San Francisco and by the looks of them it is agreeing-- --They looked great and it was great having them back with us again. We only wish their vacation could have been longer or that they didn't like San Francisco so well.

For you ex-Mariners and Ole U.S.O. people we have a surprise. Who do you suppose walked in with bags and sax in hand to check out a locker again? One of the ole Mariners leaders -- Larry Maxwell Alves. After a year and halfs absence Larry happened to get on the U.S.S. PC 1170 which came up here for deactivation. It is nice to have you back Larry and we know the Mariners especially appreciate having you play with them. Larry won't be with us for long as he will be getting his discharge from the Navy and going back to California to civilian life in about a month. Welcome back to your second home while you are here.

We had a surprise visitor for a couple of days, Benny Strausser. He made a special trip up this way from San Francisco before going to civilian life in Pennsylvania. One of the first things he said was "I told you I wouldn't forget you people". It was good to see Ben again. He was stationed here for about 6 months last year before having duty aboard the U.S.S. Boxer.

We lost one of our sweetest Jr. Hostesses in May to Portland -- "The Little One", Sue Sells. She is employed there for Southeran Pacific and lives with her sister and family. We know there are many more opportunities there and we wish you the best of luck in whatever you do Sue. Come see us when you can.

A fellow we're going to miss is Ray J. Comeaux, who leaves Wed., June 15 for Broussard, La. to once again take part in civilian life. Ray gets his discharge from the Navy that day. We'll miss seeing Ray plaing the turmpet in the Mariners and taking such an active part in our volleyball and ping pong games. The best of luck to you, Ray.

SONG DEDICATIONS

To Uncle Dudd from the gang...."THE SYNCOPATED CLOCK". (Dear Dudd, we couldn't think of one for a Black Forest Clock.)

To Big Bear and Little Bear, Norma and George, Pat and Loren from the gang...."THOSE WEDDING BELLS ARE BREAKING UP THAT OLD GANG OF MINE".

To Sue from the gang...."TILL WE MEET AGAIN".

To Ferd...."A RUSTY OLD HALO", from all the gang.

To Rip Van Winkle from the crew...."HEY BROTHER, POUR THE WINE".

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to Squeaky from Uncle Dick and vice versa.

To Lolita Laborde...."DARLING, JE VOUS AIME BEAUCOUP" from an admirer. (Guess who?)

"THE LIFE OF THE PARTY" from Uncle Dick to Uncle Dudd.

"LING TING TONG" for Jim Scholtz. I hear he's beginning to like Chinese food pretty well.

To Ann's Skirts from the Sr. Hostesses...."IT ISN'T RIGHT".

From Ann's Skirts to the Sr. Hostesses...."WHAT'LL I DO?".

For Chris...."IF I HAD THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL".

For Dave Toigo...."DAVY CROCKETT".

For Doc from Lou....The theme song from "THE MEDIC".

To the gang from Uncle Dick...."THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES".

To Rocky from the gang...."WELCOME STRANGER".

By Ann Schairer
and
Dick Newlun



MISCELLANEOUS

WHO-O-O
SAID IT FIRST

JOKES (?)

No one is entirely useless. Even the worst of us can serve as a horrible example.

No opportunity is ever lost. The other fellow takes those you miss.

Income tax: The fine for reckless thriving.

Nothing will take the starch out of you like a diet.

The only safe place to fall asleep at the wheel is in a drive-in theatre.

When a through highway is open, it's probably because they're repairing the detour.

You can't measure a person's happiness by the amount of money he has. A man with ten million dollars may be no happier than one who has only nine million.

By Sue

A man telephoned a Montreal police station one night and excitedly reported that the steering wheel, brake pedal, accelerator, clutch pedal and dashboard had been stolen from his car. A sergeant promised to investigate. But soon the telephone rang again.

"Don't bother," said the same voice--this time with a hiccup. "I got into the back seat by mistake."

Horse sense is that inestimable quality in a horse that keeps it from betting on a man.

A sergeant stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia, was going before a board for promotion to Sergeant First Class. After numerous military questions, the chairman posed this mathematical query: "If you had \$34.61 in one pocket and \$15.73 in the other, what would you have?" "Sir," the sergeant replied instantly, "I'd have someone else's pants on." He was promoted!